

# LP REEL NEWS

A Newsletter of Lamont Productions, Inc.

---



## ***CLEAN, SOBER & POSITIVE NOW IN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS***

In September 2000, Lamont began distribution efforts to place *Clean, Sober & Positive* into correctional institutions, because rates of both substance abuse and HIV/AIDS have skyrocketed in our correctional facilities in the last several decades. About 80 percent of prison and jail inmates have serious substance abuse problems. Many have or are at high risk of having HIV, since both drug use and unprotected sex with a drug user can lead to HIV. Drug and alcohol use and crime are also closely linked. Some users commit crimes to obtain drugs or money to obtain drugs. Many are under the influence of drugs when they commit crimes, and alcohol abuse and violent crime are closely linked. Drug and alcohol addiction also contribute to high recidivism rates.

Criminal justice programs must focus resources on preventing addicted high-rate offenders from continuing to abuse drugs and alcohol. For many inmates, the criminal justice system provides a first chance for substance abuse

treatment, prevention education, counseling, and testing. This can help break the cycles of addiction, disease transmission, and incarceration. These services also can benefit the families of inmates and the larger community through reduced drug-associated crime, reduced disease transmission, and reduced medical and social welfare costs.

*Clean, Sober & Positive* presents important messages of hope and self-reliance and works well in prison settings. Inmates need to know about HIV, whether they are infected with it, and how to reduce their risks. They also need to know about drug and alcohol treatment options. In this video, five people from diverse backgrounds that are in recovery from drug or alcohol abuse talk about living with HIV and AIDS. Bart, Bill, Kelly, Luana, and John talk openly and honestly about their addictions and coping with life's problems while living with a chronic disease. The video shows how self-help groups provide a critical support network for those in recovery.

(Continued on Page Two)

## **Introducing Board Member Lora McCray**

*This is the second of a series of articles about Lamont Board Members.*

*Lora McCray is a graduate of the University of Georgia (1985), the University of Washington Law School (1988), and has been licensed to practice law since 1988. She also has a Masters in Applied Anthropology from the University of Memphis (1998). Lora worked as a Program manager at Fannie Mae for four years. Now she works as a Senior Development Associate at the McAuley Institute.*

**LP Reel News:** How did you come to become a Board member of Lamont Productions?

**Lora:** My first exposure to Lamont Productions was the premiere of *Southwest Remembered: A Story of Urban Renewal* (the Hirshorn Gallery, January 1991). I was asked to help Lamont get ready for the event. I had never known filmmakers before. When I saw the film, I was impressed with its quality and the importance of the story it told. At the same time, I was examining my life, and knew that I wanted to

(Continued on Page Three)

CSP Continued from Page One

*Clean, Sober & Positive* is effective in:

- Educating inmates on how to avoid or reduce high risk behaviors and about the links between alcohol and drug use and the spread of HIV
- Encouraging inmates to get testing and treatment
- Breaking down barriers with inmates who are HIV positive and afraid to reveal it.
- Facilitating group discussion within inmate peer programs
- Motivating inmates to participate in self-help groups both during incarceration and after release to the community.

We offer *Clean, Sober & Positive* to correctional institutions at a low cost because of the importance of bringing this video to as many inmates as possible. The video is currently in use at correctional facilities in Arkansas, Maryland, Iowa, New Mexico, West Virginia, and Texas. The distribution of *Clean, Sober & Positive* in our prisons and jails provides a valuable service to inmates, their families, and the community at large.

**LP REEL NEWS**

Lamont Productions  
834 Allison Street, NW  
Washington, DC  
Telephone: (202) 291-6353  
Fax: (202) 291-6204  
E-mail: LamontPro@aol.com  
Website:  
www.lamontproductions.com

Lamont Productions, Inc., incorporated in 1983 in Washington, DC, is a tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) organization. We are dedicated to the production of educational films and videos that promote social awareness and positive change.

Our Board of Directors  
Deborah Bonsack • Sarah Goldfrank • Elizabeth Lytle  
Lora McCray • Susan Silber  
Dolores Smith, President

## ***SOUTHWEST REMEMBERED*** **REMAINS VITAL**



*4 ½ Street in the old southwest before the massive urban renewal project that changed it so dramatically.*

On Saturday, April 6, 2002, our first film, *SOUTHWEST REMEMBERED: A Story of Urban Renewal*, was featured at a salon sponsored by the Humanities Council of Washington, DC (“Transforming Lives Through the Power of the Humanities”) at the Southwest Branch Library. The audience was largely made up of residents of SW who are again facing urban renewal some 50 years after the massive urban renewal featured in this film. Humanities Program Director Michon Boston noted afterwards that the showing “was a reminder of the power of the film medium and its ability to influence decision making and civic involvement.”

*Southwest Remembered* looks at a period of urban renewal that began in the 1950s in Washington, DC’s smallest quadrant and which changed the face and character of the area forever. Yet the issues of this film are contemporary and vital, and the film continues to generate lively discussion and community involvement in issues of urban renewal and redevelopment.

*Southwest Remembered* is available for loan at the Humanities Council of Washington, DC, at the Martin Luther King Library, and at many branch libraries. It is available for sale through Lamont Productions and through *Tapeworm Video Distributors*. The film is shown regularly on public TV and the film and an accompanying study guide are incorporated into the DC Public Schools social studies curriculum.

### ***Thank You***



Lora McCray Continued from Page One

become more involved in ensuring that the voices of people who typically are not allowed to have a voice, are heard. *SWR* resonated.

**LP Reel News:** How do Lamont's other projects work for you?

**Lora:** One of Lamont's other projects, *Clean, Sober and Positive*, an amazing piece, is a perfect anthropological piece of work. It looks at the lives of five different people, and through their experiences, makes very strong points about recovery and living with HIV. Everyone I have asked to look at this video has come away from it with important messages in their minds and their hearts. They feel these people's lives and understand what the video is trying to say. That kind of impact is part of what is wonderful about the work that Lamont does.

I clicked with Sara, the main character of Lamont's first non-documentary piece, *Sara*, the first time I saw a clip. It's a lesbian love story/midlife coming of age piece, but I still identified with her. I was captured by the story and the imagery. It also is a story about empowerment and community. I think it is a great project and our excellent film team has done a fabulous job with it.

Lamont's film on the history of public housing also reinforces my basic philosophy of the importance of having a voice and my commitment to ensuring that unsung voices are heard. Film is an excellent medium for this, because it is accessible to almost everyone.

**LP Reel News:** How have you contributed to Lamont Productions?

**Lora:** The activities I have been primarily involved in are doing research on the public housing film and fundraising. Fundraising is Lamont's biggest challenge. It not only is difficult to find funding sources, there is a really delicate balance required to stay true to what you really want to do and attract funding sources too. Lamont has stayed true to itself but has not always attracted the funding.

**LP Reel News:** How would you like us to describe you?

**Lora:** I am a lawyer, I used to work for a civil rights consulting firm, and my life has a theme: equality, justice, people, and empowerment. If you look at every single thing I have done, it is all there somewhere.



A NEW FILM — Lamont Productions brings together a talented group of filmmakers to produce a dramatic film about a largely hidden community of women facing midlife issues. It does this through the eyes of a group of lesbian artists struggling with the vicissitudes of artistic creativity. The film, tentatively called *Sara*, is currently in postproduction.

## OUR WORK CONTINUES THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Kathryn R. Allen  
Alternatives  
Alfredo Arreguin & Susan Lytle  
Kenneth M. Byer  
Victoria S. Carmona  
Ann Carper  
Annette L. Carr  
Theresa Caporale  
Citigroup Foundation  
D.C. Commission on the  
Arts & Humanities  
Dianne Connolly  
Donna Dana  
DSZ (Delany, Siegel, Zorn &  
Associates)  
Caren Dickman  
Debra Donelson  
FannieMae Foundation  
Judith Fifield  
Marie Jane Frueh  
Susan M. Fullwood  
Susan Fulton  
Camille M. Gagiliardi

Sarah Goldfrank  
Robin Hochgertel  
Humanities Council of  
Washington, D.C.  
Nancy J. Hurst  
Vickie Jerrigan  
Aileen Johnson  
Susan Knapp  
Linda Laprade  
Eileen Laux  
Dick and Sally Layne  
Diane M. Lee  
Julia G. Lee  
Kathleen Lepp  
Margaret Lemberg  
Elizabeth Lytle  
Meta Lytle  
Randall James Madore  
Carole Mattio  
Lora McCray  
Barbara Meehan  
Dorothy Miller  
Eileen Milton

Elizabeth A. Monahan  
Carol Mossman  
Judith Nixon  
Melanie Peele  
Laurie J. Petrin  
Wendy L. Payton  
Nancy Polikoff  
Betty Benson Poster  
Cara Radosevich  
Judith Reed  
Susan Ross  
Eva F. Salzer  
MaryBeth A. Shay  
Suzanne Shayer  
Dolores Smith  
John A. Smith  
Edward Terrill  
Joan Twigg  
Maggie Underberg  
Deborah S. Van Ohlen  
Amelie & Licia Zurn-Galinsky

***Thank you for your support!***

**Lamont Productions, Inc.  
834 Allison Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20011-7112**